REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 16-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bizen in view of Katakura.

New claim 32 first distinguishes at least by reciting the functional unit comprising a memory, an address decoder, an address via which it can be specifically activated, and a control unit, and wherein data is sent for storage in said memory of a respective functional unit using said address of the respective functional unit; and wherein a temporal beginning of illumination phases of the groups of light sources is selected by the functional unit receiving a respective start command from the central control unit and using the start command within the respective functional unit to individually initiate the temporal beginning of said respective group of light sources such that deviations of the exposure line from a target line are minimized. In Bizen, an amendment data circuit 13 is described at the end of the translation paragraph 0042 and also at translation paragraph 0047. Y displacement amendment data is stored in the Y location amendment data circuit 13. A signal is sent out to all of the groups and then each group uses its own specific Y amendment data for the Y direction offset. No address decoder is provided in Bizen performing the functions of storing data in the memory as recited in claim 32.

The Examiner cites Katakura at column 11 for a memory writing control circuit 77 for controlling a memory for controlling current in the respective light emitting diodes (column 11, lines 5-12). The word "address" is never used and is not inherent. There is nothing in Katakura which would lead one to the use of an address decoder and an address via which the functional unit can be specifically activated such that when data is sent for storage in the memory of a respective

functional unit, the address is used of the respective functional unit for storing the data.

Claim 32 further distinguishes at least by reciting that each functional unit has an input via which it can receive data and a clock signal and an output via which the functional unit can forward data and the clock signal to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the row. Bizen discloses at Figure 3 a clock input at timing control circuit 14 and data signals input at shift register 11. However, there is no output via which the functional unit can forward data and a clock signal to the functional unit that is subsequent in the row except for the last functional unit in the row.

Dependent claim 33 recites the functional units have a system clock by which the input clock signal is reproduced. Neither Bizen nor Katakura show this feature.

Dependent claims 34-37 distinguish at least for reasons noted with respect to claim 32 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

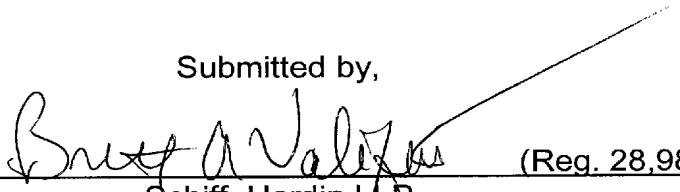
Independent claim 38 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 32. Dependent claim 39 recites the functional units have a system clock by which the input clock signal is reproduced. Neither Bizen or Katakura show this. Dependent claims 40-43 distinguish at least for the reasons that claim 38 distinguishes and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Independent method claim 44 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 32 but does not recite the functional unit input receiving a clock signal and an output forwarding a clock signal. Independent device claim 45 is similar.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 501519.

Submitted by,



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